

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 15th May 2023

Litton Village Hall – 7pm – 8pm

Present: Councillors Robinson (Chair), Gregory, Rooke, Saxby,
Clerk G Turner

There were 10 members of the public present.

Councillor Robinson opened the meeting by welcoming residents and outlining the Parish Council's responsibilities.

- Looking after the Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance
- The mowing of the Village Greens, Playground & Memorial Playing Field
- Maintenance of the trees on the Village Greens and the Cemetery
- Maintenance of the Playground and Memorial Playing Field
- General maintenance of Parish Council assets and grounds, i.e. tubs, seating and flowerbeds
- Reviewing Planning Applications in the parish
- Liaising with other authorities

The Clerk then gave an overview of the income and recurrent expenditure for 2022/23 against the budget and gave details of the types of expenses covered by the various headings.

The Clerk went on to explain the Council's reserves and how much had been ringfenced against various projects and why. The main reserves relate to the cemetery £5,932, tree maintenance £915 and a general reserve of £6,000 which does not have any restrictions on its use and is held in case of unexpected events or emergencies. The general reserve is set at 40% of recurrent expenditure.

Councillor Robinson outlined what the Council had achieved over the last year.

- Removal of trees on Litton Village Green
- Two new benches purchased for Litton Village Green with the aid of a donation and grant from DDDC's Local Projects Fund
- A new Noticeboard for Litton Mill
- Repairs to the fence at Cressbrook Car Park
- In the process of transferring Cressbrook War Memorial into the ownership of the Parish Council
- Review of cemetery regulations to help protect viability of the cemetery for longer
- A defibrillator donated by Cressbrook community was refurbished by Tideswell and Hope Valley First Responders and installed at Litton Shop free of charge by George.

The Chair then outlined what the Council aimed to achieve during 2023/24.

- More tree maintenance in the parish, particularly at the cemetery and to commission a new tree survey
- Looking to make safe the Wych Elm tree at Cressbrook War Memorial, once confirmation of the land transferred to the Parish Council was received.
- Circular bench repairs on Litton village green
- Improvements underway in the infant Playground to remove the stakes and make it safer for younger children
- Installation of bike racks behind the bus shelter in Litton
- Continuing its support of the 20s Plenty Campaign
- Defibrillator training session and fundraiser which will take place on Wednesday 7th June in Litton Village Hall between 7pm and 9pm.
- Look for more areas within the parish to leave wild
- A resident has asked the Parish Council if nesting boxes could be placed around the parish and so the Council is looking for suitable locations.

Bakewell's Safer Neighbourhood Team sent an update:

The following crimes have been reported over the last 12 months

- 1 Theft of Motor vehicle
- 1 Report of suspicious males trying a garage door
- 1 Burglary reported
- 7 Criminal Damages (mainly damage to vehicles)
- 8 Public Order offences

There have also been reports of suspicious persons and vehicles in the area recently. PC Shaun Jakins would ask that any such behaviour is reported and if a registration number of a vehicle can be noted this very much helps with their enquiries which at this time are ongoing.

Whilst there have not been any recent reports of burglary in Litton there have been incidents in Baslow, Bakewell and Bradwell and so residents should be mindful of their security.

- Don't leave high value items on display in vehicles
- High value pedal cycles are a growing trend in regards to thefts, especially electric bikes. Storing these items in a shed alone is not enough to deter a criminal as sheds are, by their very nature, easy to force entry. Further efforts should be made to secure them using heavy duty bicycle/motorbike chain locks preferably attached to something heavy and immovable such as a ground anchor.

A new section was added to this year's Annual Parish Meeting and local groups were invited to give presentations and make displays.

- **Craft Group** – Bridget Weston brought along some of the crafting projects that members of the group and have completed and spoke about how the group operates. The group is run very informally and members bring their own projects to the meetings such as knitting, felting &

crocheting and enjoy a natter and refreshments while they craft. The group finishes for the summer at the end of May, however in September they will be running some crocheting workshops. The group meets on a Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9pm and each session currently costs £2, which covers the hall hire. Everyone is welcome.

- **Millers Dale and District W.I.** – Judy Cooper and Fil Radford created a display and spoke about the upcoming events. Meetings take place in Litton Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm and there is always a Guest Speaker. As well as the regular meeting they host coffee morning and go on lots of outings.

There is no age limit and although men are not permitted to be members, they are welcome to attend any of the Guest Speaker meetings as an associate.

An annual membership of £42 is payable to the National WI, who provide a monthly magazine.

Upcoming speakers at the monthly meeting and forthcoming events are:

Suzanne Elvidge – Writing a Monologue – Wednesday 14th June

All around the Shire ‘ May mum had one of these’ Wednesday 12th July

Tea Party at Foxlowe House – Wednesday 9th August

Hanneke Dye – The Woman’s Role in Judaism – Wednesday 13th September

Sheila Yarranton – Christmas Crafts – Wednesday 8th November

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 13th December

- **Cressbrook Band** – Phil Whitehead represented Cressbrook band which he has been a member of since he was 9 years old! Currently there are approximately 20 – 25 members of Cressbrook band, which is a sociable community band who meet in Cressbrook Club on a Tuesday and Thursday night between 7.30 and 9pm. It is not compulsory to attend both nights.

No previous experience of playing a musical instrument is necessary as there is a training band who practise on Monday and Fridays between 6.30pm and 7.15pm on the first floor of the Old Grammar School in Tideswell, behind the church (next to the library).

There is no charge for lessons and an instrument will be provided.

Funds to support the band are raised by performing at village events and private functions.

The Chair then asked residents for any issues they wished to raise.

Comments from Residents

The first question was whether any progress had been made on the possibility of installing EV charging points in the village.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council had signed up for an ‘On-street lamppost Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure’ webinar to find out more about what was involved and the feasibility of the Council being able to take part in a roll out. Some lampposts in Cressbrook had already been identified as potential locations.

It was noted by residents that an increasing number of people are parking on the village green. Mainly visitors who do not know about the protections afforded to Village Greens. It was suggested whether the Village Green regulations could be displayed in the Village Shop, however it was thought that they are too large for display at the Shop, however the Clerk will look into the possibility of getting them put onto a QR code that can be displayed.

Another suggestion was to leaflet cars that park on the Village Greens to remind them that they are committing an offence.

The final issue raised by residents was to the continued disturbance from lorries passing through the village early in the morning, which is not only affecting residents sleep but their businesses too.

The Chair explained that the Council had raised the issue on numerous occasions over a number of years to address this issue with DCC. On one occasion DCC did set up equipment to monitor the size and frequency of vehicles using the main road through Litton, however when it received the results it did not feel that further action was warranted.

The Chair stressed that the Council is just one voice and that if everyone complained individually to DCC about the lorries etc, then it would have more impact and there was more chance of progress on this issue.

It was agreed that the Clerk will add some more useful links to the District and County Council departments on the website.

'H' Molloy proposed a vote of thanks to the Council for their efforts throughout the year.